

AIDS

Example: Strengthening Guinea's response to AIDS

The GTZ-supported health and AIDS programme in three of Guinea's poorest regions shows how supporting a comprehensive, decentralised and multi-sectoral AIDS response contributes to provision of universal access to prevention, treatment and care. GTZ experts assist Guinea's governmental health and education institutions and civil society actors in improving the performance of decentralised health services with a special focus on the needs of those directly affected by the epidemic.

GTZ has introduced an innovative approach to quality improvement in the health sector: through promoting a sense of responsibility and encouraging initiative among health workers and communities alike. Despite poor macro-economic conditions, the approach improved staff performance and community participation, contributing to better care and increased utilisation of preventive services. In synergy with the education sector, the GTZ health programme supports HIV prevention in schools and communities, involving young people in and out of school and their parents.



GTZ's approaches and their results

In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the National AIDS Council and the World Bank, GTZ supported a national **second generation sentinel surveillance of HIV and syphilis** among pregnant women in 2004. The study confirmed that HIV prevalence rose from 2.8% in 2001 to 4.2% in 2004. These figures led to enhancing the action plan of the National AIDS Policy and the WHO 3 by 5 Initiative and to streamlining the accelerated use of existing international funds.

In cooperation with the World Bank, GTZ's support has been very effective in providing the National AIDS Committee in Guinea (CNLS) and its partners with the **SI-DAPES** information system (**Planning, Evaluation and Surveillance of AIDS Interventions**), which improved coordination, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanisms in the HIV field in Guinea. This tool provides an overview of the individual HIV-related interventions per region and district and the technical support provided by the various bilateral and multilateral partners.

The **"twin-track approach"**, targeting youths in and out of school and their parents, has been adopted in multi-sectoral cooperation with the GTZ basic education programme. Girls in particular are put at the centre of gender-sensitive prevention efforts, aiming to empower them to make responsible decisions regarding their own and their partners' health and sexuality. Teachers, students and parents are trained as peer educators, and youth clubs have been established which provide young people with essential information on their sexuality and HIV prevention.

In cooperation with non-governmental partner organisations, GTZ developed the pioneering **Intergenerational Dialogue** to promote constructive and consensual change of harmful practices, such as female genital cutting, forced

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marriages, and the withholding of sexual education and information from the young. Local organisations are enabled to facilitate community-based dialogue workshops where young and old discuss controversial themes such as gender roles, sexual morality in the past and present, and HIV. Evaluations show, as a result, that the quality and quantity of communication between the generations improved significantly, that communities decided to sanction harmful traditional practices and that religious and traditional leaders who took part in the dialogues became active promoters of youths' reproductive rights. GTZ's technical support to the first organisation of **People Living With HIV (PLWH)** in Guinea, **Association Guinéenne de Personnes vivant avec le VIH (AGUIP+)**, has paved the way for greater involvement of the civil society in the response to AIDS. GTZ's support has enabled the organization to build a nationwide network of PLWH associations, a crucial step towards the reduction of the AIDS-related stigma and discrimination in Guinea. AGUIP+ is today a key player in the national response to AIDS.

Access to care and treatment for PLWH has been established. GTZ experts have developed and implemented model care and treatment of HIV-positive persons and persons living with AIDS. A voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) and antiretroviral treatment (ART) scheme has been set up in the Mamou region, following WHO guidelines and national standards. WHO has evaluated the setting as "state of the art". Since ART is available in the Mamou region, the demand for counselling and testing has increased substantially. As sub-recipient of the Guinean GFATM grant, GTZ has been asked to scale up this model to 3 more regions in the country.

GTZ's service package

Health system development: GTZ is providing technical advisory services to health institutions in order to improve the quality of and access to the health system and thus to promote its acceptance among the population. Our consulting services support the integration of ART into existing

health-related infrastructures and the application of quality principles and standards within a systemic quality improvement approach.

Capacity development: For over 30 years, GTZ's key tasks have included developing its partners' potential and capacities, and facilitating the concomitant processes of learning and change. GTZ sees capacity development as the process of strengthening the abilities or capacities of individuals, organizations and societies to make effective and efficient use of resources in order to achieve their own goals on a sustainable basis. This is done by investing in people, organisations and institutions, and policies within the framework of the national development strategy of the country in question.

Involving PLWH in the health sector response: GTZ works towards sustainable long-term responses to AIDS with the meaningful involvement of PLWH and their networks. We advise our partners in building demand-driven AIDS programmes in which the priorities of PLWH inform and guide decision-making processes, action plans and the resulting service provision.

HIV prevention through behaviour change communication (BCC): GTZ offers advice on, for example, putting together interdisciplinary teams to develop and implement campaigns or on choosing and designing audience-oriented media. Crucial factors include the choice of appropriate methods and approaches.

Development of **youth-oriented information and education materials** with active participation and involvement of young people.

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1) The 3 by 5 Initiative, launched by UNAIDS and WHO in 2003, aimed to provide three million people living with HIV in low- and middle-income countries with life-prolonging antiretroviral treatment (ART) by the end of 2005.

2) The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Imprint 08/07

Publishers:

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